

TEMPE TODAY

a community newsletter



VOLUME 31 - ISSUE 1

WWW.TEMPE.GOV

JANUARY 2015

Contribute your views on city budgets

The City of Tempe will hold a public forum on Wednesday, Feb. 25, to inform community members about the city's operating and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets, and to hear their priorities for the 2015-16 fiscal year and beyond. The forum will be held at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

The city's operating budget covers everyday expenses, such as salaries, materials and supplies. Separately, the CIP covers capital expenses like major equipment replacements, street improvements, new facilities and building updates.

A dedicated webpage (www.tempe.gov/budgetplan) has updated details on the formulation of budgets for the 2015-16 fiscal year, as well as projected dates for City Council discussions and votes on both the operating and capital budgets. Also on the site is a link to an online survey to gather residents' budget feedback. The survey will be active from Feb. 25 through March 27.



Batter up for spring training

Hear the crack of a bat and smell the fresh-cut grass while watching America's favorite pastime as the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim return to their spring training home in Tempe.

The Angels will host the Milwaukee Brewers at Diablo Stadium for their spring training home opener on Thursday, March 5. The season will run through March 31 at Diablo Stadium, when the Angels will take on the Oakland A's.

Tickets are on sale now at www.ticketmaster.com or you can purchase them at the Tempe Diablo box office beginning Feb. 21. Tempe Diablo Stadium is located at 2200 W. Alameda Drive. Visit www.tempe.gov/diablo for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.

Crime-fighting efforts get boost from U.S. Department of Justice grant

The Tempe Police Department's successful crime-fighting efforts have resulted in a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant will support existing intelligence-led policing and crime suppression efforts.

Chief Tom Ryff adopted intelligence-led policing to prevent and fight crime several years ago, creating the SPARC (Strategic Planning, Analysis and Research Center) and CIC (Crime and Intel Center). Employees from all areas of the department regularly attend Crime Suppression Team meetings, using statistical analysis, intelligence and real-time information gained by officers on the street to determine where resources are most needed and will be most effective in fighting crime. Tempe is a founding and active partner in the East Valley Gang and Criminal Information Fusion Center, which also will be contributing to the enhanced crime-fighting efforts.

Tempe will use the grant to further develop existing technical capabilities to identify and apprehend serious and repeat violent offenders, to gain a greater understanding of the connections between criminals and victims, to increase tools for crime mapping, and to enhance capabilities to predict where and when crime could occur, based on offender, victim and location propensities.

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Help plan Tempe's arts and culture future

Mayor Mark Mitchell

will host a town hall session on the future of art in Tempe on Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. The city is developing the Tempe Arts Plan, a master plan to strengthen arts and culture throughout the community. Join residents and other community members for a brief presentation about the planning process and engage in small-group discussions on topics of your choosing. Come help shape the cultural future of your community. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or to comment online from Feb. 3-24, visit www.tempe.gov/tempeartsplan.



City launches new green organics-to-compost program

A new mixed bulk trash schedule is in effect this month, increasing collections to every other month and adding a seasonal green organics option in spring, summer and fall. What you may not know is that by taking advantage of the green waste pickups you're also helping to close the recycling loop.

Clean, uncontaminated green organic material isn't taken to the landfill. Instead, it goes to a city facility where it is turned into compost. The green waste goes through a grinder and then "cooks" for up to nine months outdoors as water, air and heat break it down even further. Through this process, microbes stimulate decomposition, creating nutrient-rich compost. Once cooked, the material is sent to a lab for testing before being distributed to schools, city parks and at community events. So instead of ending up in the landfill, your trees, leaves and shrubs are returned to the earth to help create new vegetation. The recycling loop is complete.

To learn more about Tempe's composting program, and to see the enhanced 2015 bulk trash and green organics schedule, visit www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash.

Play like a kid again at Tempe's annual PlayDay



On Saturday, Feb. 28, kids of all ages can have fun and stay active at the city's 6th annual PlayDay. The free community event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kiwanis Park, at Mill Avenue and All-America Way. Families can join structured and unstructured opportunities including kayaking, football, softball and tennis drills/skills and inflatable games. All activities will take place at Kiwanis Lake.

This will mark the inaugural year of the Kid Zone Experience and the return of the Diablo Dash. The Kid Zone Experience will feature cooking challenges, speed stacking, yo-yo competitions and more. The Diablo Dash, sponsored by the Tempe Diablos, is a free, family-friendly obstacle course that will have you running, crawling, climbing, sliding and laughing your way through a bubbling foam pit to hit the finish line!

KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting play in children's lives, chose Tempe as a Playful City USA community this past spring. Tempe was one of 25 communities nationally given the designation for the fifth consecutive year because of the way it uses play and play spaces to positively impact childhood wellness, public safety and quality of life. For information, visit www.tempe.gov/familyfun or call 480-350-5200.



Spring classes begin in March

Spring into something new! The Spring 2015 Tempe Opportunities Brochure features hundreds of programs for every interest, age and ability, including health and fitness, art, dance, special interest, sports, aquatics and boating offerings. The brochure will be available online and can be found at City of Tempe facilities beginning Feb. 12. Registration will begin Feb. 17 for Tempe residents and Feb. 23 for non-residents.

Visit www.tempe.gov/brochure or call the Recreation Administration Office at 480-350-5200 for more information. Registration can be completed online, by fax or in person at many Tempe community centers.

Tempe 311 adding services

Tempe was the first city in the Valley to offer a centralized customer relations center, giving residents one point of contact instead of navigating through departments. And the city continues to improve Tempe 311 by adding options that simplify the process of requesting services, asking questions and offering feedback. Residents can now use Tempe 311 to register for city classes, get boat permits and make reservations for facilities like ramadas, volleyball courts, soccer fields and softball fields. Residents also can schedule service requests, make online payments and apply for licenses. There are three convenient ways to reach Tempe 311: by calling 480-350-8311; by submitting a request at www.tempe.gov/tempe311; or by downloading the service's mobile app.

Neighborhood Day at the Legislature

Ever wondered how the legislative process works at the state Capitol? Tempe residents are invited to join the Mayor and Council for Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature on Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 9-11 a.m. at the Arizona State Senate, 1700 W. Washington St. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet their City Councilmembers, learn about Tempe's legislative program and get acquainted with their Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate representatives. Participants also will have time for self-guided tours after the program.

To reserve a spot, contact Neighborhood Services at 480-350-8234 or neighborhoods@tempe.gov. Free parking is available at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, 1820 W. Washington St. To take public transportation to the event, visit www.valleymetro.org for bus, light rail and park-and-ride information.

Policy changes at the state level can affect resources, activities and operations in Tempe so it's important to stay informed. Residents are encouraged to bring their questions and share their neighborhood stories. For periodic email updates throughout the legislative

Roof rat prevention and control

Come to a community meeting to learn how you and your neighbors can work together to prevent and control roof rats on Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Join Barry Paceley, roof-rat wrangler, for his tips and suggestions for tackling your existing roof rat issues. If you have yet to experience these unwelcome visitors, learn to prevent them from invading your home or yard. Signs of roof rat activity include: visual sightings on power lines, trees, bushes, patios and in garages, storage sheds and homes; hollowed-out citrus or fruit; rat droppings; gnawing or scratching noises in attics, walls and/or around eaves of homes; damage to plastics and coverings on electrical wires; and unsettled pets.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/roofrats or contact Neighborhood Services at 480-350-8234 or neighborhoods@tempe.gov. Tempe 11 has a great video about roof rats at <http://bit.ly/1yQlxvU>.

Donate your extra fruit

Pick all the extra citrus off your trees and donate it to someone in need! United Food Bank is hosting the Tempe Citrus Saturday Drop Off on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. Tempe residents can drop off usable fruit between 9 a.m. and noon in the southern parking lot. The fruit will be distributed through United Food Bank.

New Character Area planning begins in February

Character Areas are parts of the community that have achieved distinctive, recognizable, character that differs from neighboring areas as a result of housing styles, streetscapes, open space, density or other features. The City Council designated eight of these areas and planning efforts are about to begin for the next two.

Hundreds of residents and business leaders just completed planning efforts for two south Tempe character areas, working with city staff for about a year. Participants examine their neighborhoods and express their preferences for the future of these areas. Their priorities are put into a document that the City Council, the Design Review Commission and others can use when making decisions involving these areas. The Council will review the draft plans for Corona/South Tempe and Kiwanis/The Lakes soon.

In fall 2014, the City Council selected Character Areas 4 and 5 as the next ones to be planned. Character Area 4, known as the Apache area, is just over 2.5 square miles and includes the Escalante and Victory Acres neighborhoods, as well as Hudson Manor, Villagio, Borden Homes Tomlinson Estates and Hudson Park. Character Area 5, known as Central City, includes Tempe Gardens, Meyer Park, Shalimar, Friendship Village and neighborhoods east and west of the Loop 101.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/characterareas.

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Tempe Today?**

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**for the expanded edition
each month!**

Calendar

This is the tentative January schedule for Tempe City Council meetings. Check www.tempe.gov/clerks for upcoming February schedule.

January 8, 2015

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Regular Council Meeting

January 15, 2015

6:30 p.m., Swearing-In Ceremony of elected Councilmembers

January 29, 2015

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Regular Council Meeting

Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates, times and locations with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

Tempe City Council

Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Onnie Shekerjian
Vice Mayor

Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember

Shana Ellis
Councilmember

Kolby Granville
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Corey Woods
Councilmember

Lauren Kuby
Councilmember-elect (as of 1/15)

David Schapira
Councilmember-elect (as of 1/15)

Andrew Ching
City Manager

To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

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News you can use

Geeks' Night Out

Save the date for the 4th Annual Geeks' Night Out, on Thursday, March 5, at Tempe City Hall. This free, family-friendly event will enable all of us to Discover the Science! Tempe has teamed up with the Arizona SciTech Festival for this celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts, math and more.

Tempe History Museum hosts antiques seminars


Hayden's Ferry Questers will sponsor its annual Antique and Collectible Seminars each Tuesday in February, from 7-9 p.m., in the community room of the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. The dates are Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. Funds from the seminars are used for restoration of the Petersen House Museum in Tempe. Seminar topics include: beaded/mesh bags; patterned glass; buttons; Blakely Gas Station giveaways; and earthenware/chintzware/ironware. Cost for all four nights is \$40 with an advance reservation or \$45 at the door. Individual sessions are \$15. Reservations can be made by calling Julie at 480-838-2414 or Ruth at 480-839-1729.

Help fight hunger in Tempe

At the Tempe Empty Bowls event (www.facebook.com/tempeemptybowls), community members have chances to help fight hunger in Tempe. With the \$10 purchase of a handmade bowl, Whole Foods Market will offer a simple meal of soup and bread, symbolic of the caloric intake that must sustain many for an entire day. The 2015 Tempe Empty Bowls will be held from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20, at Sixth Street Park (just south of City Hall in downtown Tempe) and Saturday, Feb. 21, in the courtyard next to the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. Proceeds benefit Tempe Community Action Agency's Community Garden programs and United Food Bank's Kid's Café program.

Free tax preparation for income-qualified residents

Tempe Community Council's Financial Stability Initiative offers a free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site for qualified taxpayers. The service is available on Saturdays, Jan. 31 to April 11, from 9 a.m. to noon (closed for Spring Break March 7 and 14) and some Wednesdays, from 5-7 p.m., at Landings Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. Tax preparation at this site is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about qualifications and what you need to bring, visit www.tempecommunitycouncil.org.

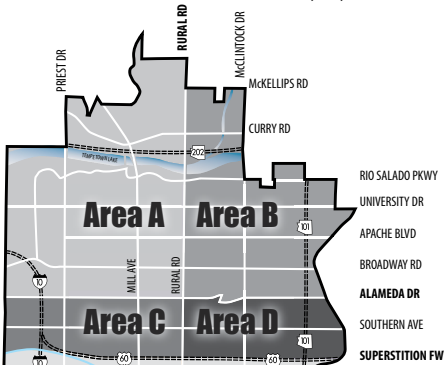


FEBRUARY 2015

Mixed Bulk Trash Collection Schedule

	Collection Week	Collection Type
Area A	FEB 2-6	MIXED BULK WASTE
Area B	FEB 9-13	
Area C	FEB 16-20	
Area D	FEB 23-27	

Items may be placed for collection no earlier than 10 days prior to Monday of your collection week and no later than 6 a.m. on Monday of your collection week.



www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash • 480-350-4311

ASU's Night of the Open Door at the Biodesign Institute

Discover the scientist in you at ASU's Night of the Open Door on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 4-9 p.m. at the Biodesign Institute, 727 E. Tyler St. Learn about cutting-edge research impacting health, security and the environment while you see ASU's premiere research facility, an amazing place that is open to the public only one night each year. Afterwards, stroll the campus and choose from more than 100 activities. The event is free of charge and all ages are welcome. For event information visit <http://opendoor.asu.edu>.



Tempe explores Orbit expansion

Tempe is considering expansion of its popular Orbit service by possibly adding a new route – Saturn – further south to neighborhoods south of the US 60, with public meetings beginning in January.

Earlier this year, the Tempe City Council authorized staff to explore adding a new Orbit route between US 60 and Elliot Road, from the city's eastern border with Mesa to the western side where Tempe meets Guadalupe and Phoenix. Tempe's existing orbit routes – Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter – operate seven days a week, connecting neighborhoods north of U S 60 with local destinations, Valley Metro bus routes and light rail.

"Adding Orbit service in south Tempe aligns closely with the City Council's goals of promoting a safe and vibrant neighborhood community and enhancing quality of life for our residents," said Mayor Mark Mitchell.

Neighborhood circulator service was part of the Tempe Transit Tax approved by voters in 1996, with the five existing routes implemented between 2007 and 2008. Expansion of the Orbit system in 2007 was put on hold due to economic downturn and associated budget impacts.

City staff in April began studying the feasibility of implementing a new Orbit route, including estimating costs and gauging public interest through a telephone survey of residents in the area. The survey indicated general support for a new route.

"The community has changed since we began the planning process for Orbit Saturn many years ago," said Councilmember Shana Ellis. "It's important that we go back out and work with residents who live in the area to ensure we develop a route that meets their needs."

Over the next several months, the city will conduct a public involvement and planning process to include public meetings and online input options. Residents will be encouraged to provide feedback about points of interest, hours and days of operation, and proposed route options.

The city has \$1.2 million in Tempe Transit Tax funds available annually to operate a new route. If approved and implemented, the Saturn route would provide connections to neighborhood destinations within the planning area, as well as several Valley Metro bus routes that travel to destinations like downtown Tempe, ASU, Tempe Marketplace, light rail and destinations throughout the Valley.

Public meetings to discuss a new Orbit route will be held throughout 2015, with the first set of meetings scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 21 and 9 a.m. Jan. 24 at Marcos de Niza High School, 6000 S. Lakeshore Drive.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/orbit.

Beacon Awards

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the inaugural Beacon Awards, a breakfast event celebrating outstanding achievements in commerce and the community. This event features new awards and honors to recognize companies and individuals whose practices in business and community service exemplify excellence.

For the first time, the Business Excellence Awards will be presented in two categories for both Small and Large Business of the Year. The awards honor companies for success in business growth, employee development, community involvement and customer service.

Making its debut in 2015 is the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, recognizing an individual, business or organization that best embodies the spirit of entrepreneurship, engages in responsible business practices and demonstrates a passion for innovation and success.

The Spirit of Tempe and Outstanding Community Leader awards honor individuals whose work in the community and service to others makes them an inspiration to others.

The event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Embassy Suites, 4400 S. Rural Road. RSVP at www.tempechamber.org or to 480-967-7891.



Free Art Friday

Free Art Friday is a free, family interactive art series that gives preschoolers and caregivers the opportunity to create art, learn about music and movement and have a great time! Each month has a different theme and featured art projects.

Free Art Friday will be held on Friday, February 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Edna Vihel Center, 3340 S. Rural Rd. Each month has a different theme so families are encouraged to attend each event.

Registration is not required for these free, leisurely mornings of activities. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/familyfun or call 480-350-5287.

More bike riding part of your 2015 fitness plan? Resolve to ride safely

Make bike riding part of your New Year's fitness plan, and resolve to ride safely. Tempe has more than 175 miles of bikeways, including on-street bike lanes and scenic shared use paths, making bicycling a fun and convenient way to exercise your new plan.

While you're out there, follow these simple tips to keep your ride as safe as possible:

- Ride on the right with the flow of traffic.
- Wear a helmet.
- Use hand signals.
- Follow lane markings.
- Be aware of what's going on around you.
- Use a light at night.
- When approaching a Valley Metro light rail crossing:
 - o Never try to beat the train.
 - o Never stop on the tracks.
 - o Be alert when near the tracks.
 - o Look for flashing headlights and listen for warning bells and horns.
 - o Look both ways before crossing the tracks.
- Wear bright colored clothing.
- Obey traffic signals, signs and laws.

You can get information about bicycling by following Tempe on Twitter or Facebook and checking our web site at www.tempe.gov/tim.

Check out Tempe middle schools during orientation nights

Tempe Elementary School District (TD3) offers a middle school program designed to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the middle school child. TD3 middle schools offer a high level of academic rigor in the classroom and an increased emphasis on skills that prepare students for success in high school, college, and beyond. Two electives are offered every day for each student, and high school credit is offered in Spanish, algebra, and geometry.

Join us on the following dates to learn more about these unique schools:

Gililand Middle School

1025 S. Beck Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6-7:30 p.m.

Fees College Preparatory Middle School

1600 E. Watson Dr.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6-7:30 p.m.

Connolly Middle School

2002 E. Concorda Dr.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 6-7:30 p.m.



Counseling for individuals, couples and families

The City of Tempe's Counseling Program has provided professional counseling for individuals, couples and families

for more than 25 years. The program, with offices on the second floor of the Tempe Public Library, serves residents who cannot get counseling services through their health insurance or AHCCCS. Issues that can be addressed include depression, anxiety, stress, parent/child issues, partner relationship problems, sexual abuse, grief, trauma, domestic violence, substance abuse, among others. The city's therapists are Licensed Professional Counselors and Master's level counselors. Fees are \$5 to \$40 per session based on family size and income. Counseling is strictly confidential. Call Social Services at 480-350-5400 for more information or to make an appointment.

Free full-day kindergarten registration

Tempe Elementary staff will begin registering children for kindergarten at a special evening event on Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Tempe Elementary schools and continue throughout the school year. All children turning 5 by Dec. 31 are eligible.

Tempe Elementary has offered full-day kindergarten at all of its schools since 2000, much longer than most school districts. Our kindergarten teachers have become experts in early childhood education.

In order to register, parents need to bring their child's certified birth certificate, documented immunization record, and a verification of residence. It is important to register early for our nurturing kindergarten program, as classes fill up fast. For more information, call 480-730-7406 or visit www.tempeschools.org/kinderTempe.

Tempe Cares

It is time again to save the date for the upcoming Tempe Cares one-day community project focused on cleaning up Tempe's neighborhoods, schools, and parks. This year's event will be held Saturday, March 7. Volunteers of all ages and skill sets are welcome to come together for this one day event and give back to the community. This year Tempe Cares will return to its roots and focus the project efforts on a Tempe neighborhood.

If you are interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or making a donation, email tempecares@gmail.com with your information.



Councilmember Corey Woods is 'All Ears' at special session

City of Tempe Councilmember Corey Woods invites members of the community to join him next month at "All Ears with Corey Woods," a casual forum to exchange ideas. Residents are encouraged to come out and spend the morning with Woods on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., in Program Room A of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. The room is downstairs.

Woods will be discussing Tempe's role in job creation and how it affects your neighborhood. Staff from the city's Economic Development Office and Community Development Department will present information about the vital work of attracting businesses to Tempe, especially businesses that add to the quality life of our residents. This is an opportunity for residents to bring any ideas, feedback and questions regarding this topic.

Woods has served on the City Council since 2008. For more information on his service in Tempe, visit www.tempe.gov/woods or for more information on this event, contact Parrish Spisz at 480-350-8816.



Community Needs Assessment Workshop
Your input is needed!

Tempe community needs assessment workshop Jan. 10

The City of Tempe and Tempe Community Council (TCC) are embarking on a Community Needs Assessment to determine where City resources should be directed for human services.

The Community Needs Assessment will include various methods of gathering input, such as client surveys, a general public web-based survey, key stakeholder interviews, and demographic research and analysis. One of the most critical opportunities for individuals to be included in this process is at the Community Workshop.

Who: Tempe residents, business and community members, social service agencies, public/elected officials, and anyone interested in ensuring resources are provided for their neighbors in need.

What: Community Needs Assessment Workshop for human services

When: Saturday, Jan. 10, from 8:30 to noon

Where: Professional Learning Center at Bustoz, 2020 E. Carson Drive

To register for the workshop, visit www.tempecommunitycouncil.org. Seating is limited.

For questions or comments, please contact TCC Community Impact Manager, Caterina Mena, at caterina_mena@tempe.gov or 480-858-2311.